

Our October 24th Meeting...



Jack Wikle will be doing a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Styling Stuff: Observations on Bonsai Design and Aesthetics* at this month's meeting of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 6:30-9:00 at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Jack has suggested, to make the most of this experience, he would encourage people who expect to be present to do a little 'assigned reading.' Go to our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society website and click the "Education" tab. Then read the first two articles offered there. The first is titled, [Bonsai Rules and Styling](#). The second is [Guidelines not Rules](#).

Questions or concerns about the auction?

I will have documents available to explain your concerns about any portion of the auction. I will be available at the October 24th monthly meeting at 6:30PM to assist you. Look for me.

- PaulK

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Ron Milostan

While reading on the Web I run across things happening in bonsai shows. One thing was called slip potting. This has been going on for a long time. It is putting a tree, to be displayed, in fancy, antique, or special pots for the show and then returning it to the grow pot after the show. This reduces the need of owning so many expensive pots. I know several members who do this now.

A newer trend is using a large background photo or poster to set your display into a scene. This could be landscape scene, or garden scene or fictional arena. There are now also displays using 3 dimensional props added to the display. I have seen this done with an arbor and also a doll house. I find this trend interesting and wonder if this would be something we might pursue as a club to make our show unique. This certainly is not the norm for the more international and national shows since it does move us away from the traditional ways of displaying bonsai. I would love to read your views about this on our Facebook page.

The AABS board met for an annual meeting on Sunday Oct. 7. The meeting had a very long agenda and we were able to get a lot accomplished. The financial records were reviewed and found to be accurate; a printed financial report will be available at the next meeting. There was a review and update of the AABS Constitution and Bylaws. Many other items were discussed and will be detailed for

the membership at the October meeting. In the future there will be a vote by the membership on the revisions and additions made to the Bylaws.

Well we now are ending 2018. This Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is held together by its members working and bringing together ideas and learning venues. We have a great Web Page, a great Newsletter, a great Facebook page and interesting monthly meetings. All of this is brought to you by club members going the extra mile. Here is a list of the people who are making this club special.

Vice President: **Jay Sinclair**aka Program Chair
Recording Secretary: **Chris Kehrig**
Corresponding Secretary: **Bob Bauer**
Newsletter Editor: **Don Wenzel**
Treasurer: **Tam Milostan**
Show Chair: **Kurt Smith**
Membership Chair: **Mark Hanner**
Directors: **Aaron Binns**
Carmen Leskoviansky
Peggy Kubitz

Now these are only the official board members

Paul Kulesa is not an official board member but certainly one member who has a hand in everything, especially show set up/take down and our yearly auction. Special accolades to you Paul.

Bill Struhar is another member who makes our meetings fun and interesting by running the raffles and handling the sales of merchandise. Thank you, Bill.

Now we have many other members who are always helping with set up and running of our monthly meetings. Too many to list but they are visible at all functions. My Thanks to all of you.

September Meeting Review

Chris Kehrig

Ann Arbor Bonsai Auction - 9/26/18

It was another fantastic auction with plenty of silent auction and live auction items available. The minimum this year was set at \$25 for the live auction which worked

well – every tree was able to meet this minimum. Here is a listing of all the items that were available in the live auction and selling price:

Picea Glauca \$35	Hornbeam Maple \$30
Austrian Black Pine \$125	Juniper \$75
Chinese Elm \$500 min reached	Mulberry \$30
Degroot Spire Cedar \$85	Schefflera \$30
Boxwood \$400 not reached	Maple \$30
Pot \$75 min reached	Trident Maple \$300 min reached
Red Bud Forest \$30	White Cedar \$40
White Cedar \$100	5 needle Pine \$30
Cork Bark Elm \$1000 min not reached	Dragon Pot \$35
Boxwood \$25	White Spruce Forest \$25
Boxwood \$40	Yew \$25
Mugo pine \$25	Ficus \$50
Juniper \$30	Blue Juniper \$35
Black Hills Spruce \$40	Boxwood \$65
Shimpaku \$200 min reached	Shimpaku \$40
Japanese Blood good Maple \$40	Frog Pot \$30
Boxwood \$25	Pot \$35
Black Pine \$55	Ponderosa Pine \$55
Paper Birch \$60	Alberta Spruce \$110
Trident Maple \$65	Mica Forest pot \$75 min reached
Zelkova \$65	Rock Slab \$45
Boxwood \$45	American Hornbeam \$35
Pot \$30	Japanese Maple \$700 min reached

The AABS Annual Auction

Paul Kulesa

This past September, the AABS held its annual auction. From an administrative perspective, I am confident the auction was successful. With the assistance of a handful of volunteers, fifty buyers and fourteen sellers were registered. The Silent Auction offered forty-eight items for sale, a bit of a reduction from the previous two years. The Live Auction, conducted by Carmen Leskoviansky and Aaron Binns, proceeded with few hiccups offering forty-seven items for bidding.

Recording Live Auction transactions are a critical element for administering the auction. Resolving the Silent Auction transactions are the second leg of the three-leg auction-stool. When the live auction finishes, the buyers were anxious to pay for and pickup their purchases. This final leg of the “auction-stool” proceeded smoothly with few glitches.

The auction was a success due to the assistance of the following members; Dan Angelucci, Bob Bauer, Aaron Binns, Michael Field, Becky Hanner, Hanna Hughes, Kathy Knapp, Carmen Leskoviansky, Tamara Milostan, Vicki Norfleet, Jay Sinclair, Kurt Smith and Don Wenzel.

In addition, there were a number of members who setup tables and chairs and dismantled the auditorium at the end of the evening. I did not / could not make note of them.

I am grateful for the help all members offered.

Thank You!

Up For Debate

Aaron Binns

Tips on Narrow Leaf Ficus

There is nothing new under the sun. The longer I live the more I realize just how true that statement is. Bonsai articles are no exception and it is not often that I read an article, or write one for that matter, that really demonstrates something new. That's just fine because Bonsai artists don't really change either. We will continue to read articles and study whatever material we can get our hands on in the hope of uncovering some golden nugget of truth that we will find useful. To date, I have shied away from articles giving too much in depth information of specific species. I have done this for a couple of reasons, first I am very much a bonsai artist that plays by ear... which means I ignore rules whenever possible and spend enough time with my trees to understand when they can tolerate work and when they can't. Doing this has led me to develop some of my own rules but if I really had to try to memorize how many leaves I could trim or exactly how much fertilizer to use, or the perfect soil mix on a per species basis I would have quit long ago. Second, I don't have a horticultural background and there are far many more qualified individuals to give species advice than me. But I have come to the conclusion that I don't care. I am going to try to start writing some articles that focus on species specifics with the understanding that these tips are based on my experience and sometimes will not match accepted guidance. You should also know that I don't want this to

become a set of rules for you either. Playing by ear makes for better trees almost every time.

It is approaching winter and most trees are boring at this point. So, I turn my attention to indoor trees, as I have indicated in many a past article. So let's consider a tropical for this first foray into species specifics. Let's start with my favorite ficus, *Ficus nerifolia*, or narrow leaf ficus. This is a great tree, I have called it bullet proof in the past. The foliage is narrow, as the name suggests, and has a red tint when new that slowly fades to pure green as the leaf matures. You can use this by choosing a pot with red highlights, I have done this in the past with very pleasing results. Plus, how many times will you have a good excuse to use a red pot? To take full advantage of this you would need to defoliate a few weeks before a show. My only advice on this is be careful, I don't usually defoliate any of my trees because it weakens them. They look great but it is a step I don't generally take. I would have no problem doing this to my *nerifolia*, but I wouldn't do it until spring. Don't do it in winter, I don't think it would hurt a healthy *nerifolia* but if you do remove all of the leaves you will have a stick with no leaves for a long time and that's just no fun. You will also take the chance that the tree chooses not to keep a limb or two alive.

No tropical likes winter in Michigan and the *nerifolia* is no exception. There is just not enough light. I move my trees inside when the weather starts to get cold and I let my trees see colder weather than most books say are the minimum. I wait until night time temps start dropping below 50F to bring things indoors. I have allowed my *nerifolia* to see temps down to 40F. No problems. This allows you to be a little lazy, if you get a one night drop in temperature followed by a week worth of above normal temperatures, then leave the trees out. You don't have to bring them in and out. I would limit time below 50F as much as possible, but it isn't a hard line rule. Supplement with light when the tree is inside. I place them under fluorescents on a rack next to a window. This gives them natural and artificial light and the system works fine for me. The tree wants to drop leaves when moved indoors so I try to let the tree grow uncontrolled in the fall and cut back hard just before they come in. This way I control what leaves fall and which branches may get weak as a result. I highly recommend this.

Soil, just doesn't matter as long as it is free draining. I use equal amounts of lava, haydite, and grit. I only repot in the spring, which for all tropicals is early, February. As

soon as growth starts picking up, it is spring and you can repot.

Fertilizer, yes please. I reduce fertilizer use in the winter but I don't stop.

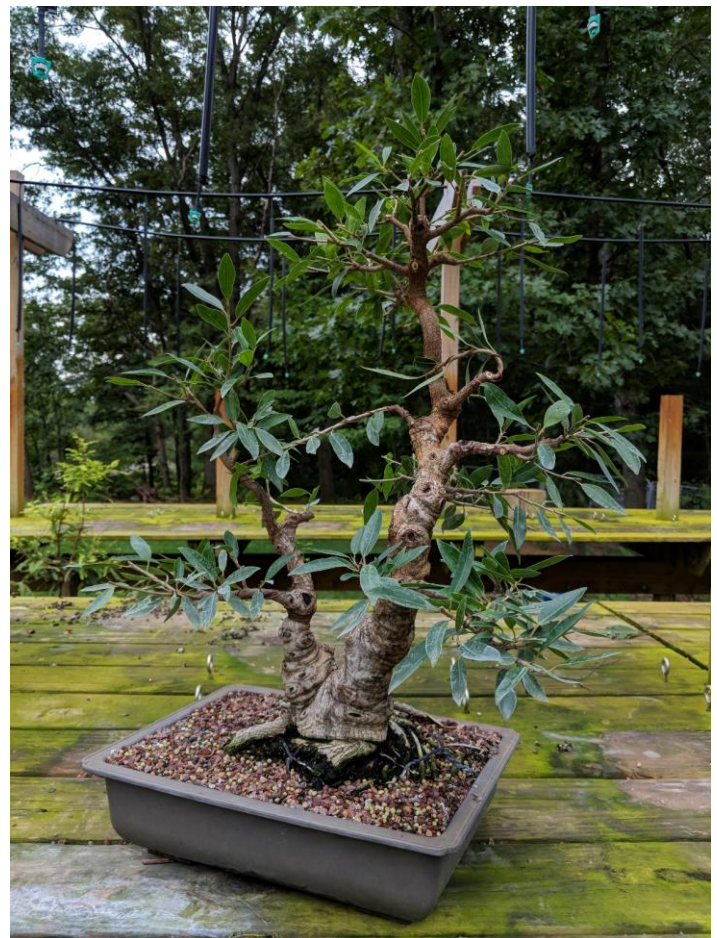
Wiring – all the time. To get branches in place you should have wire on these trees all the time. Watch closely because growth is so fast it is easy to get wire scars. Also, be careful of damaging new buds even on old wood when wiring. New buds are always there on this species.

Trimming/pruning, after I trim back to bring indoors for winter, I leave the tree alone for the most part until spring. Through the entire growing season you can trim/prune with confidence that the tree will bud back. I do try to leave at least one leaf on all branches as a safety measure. If you don't, you give the tree too much choice to let a limb die.

These ficus grow like crazy so you can have some fun with techniques that other trees don't like. I have thread grafted a couple of times and you can do this anytime of year on this species. Below I show a tree I'm developing. Because the nerifolia produces new shoots on old wood prolifically I have confidence that the areas of bare trunk will eventually be filled by great branching. To speed this I have performed two thread grafts to place branches in the back of the tree. The back is important, a thread graft is a graft and will produce a graft scar, in this case swelling around the base of the new limb where it emerges from the trunk. The scare that is produced from cutting the sacrificial side of the joint, which is in front if we are adding a new limb in back, will heal very quickly in nerifolia. Here are the steps for thread grafting.

- Choose a long thin branch that you need to cut off or back anyway.
- Get a drill and choose a bit that is just barely bigger than the thin branch you chose in step one.
- Drill through the trunk where you want the new limb to come out, make sure the drill exits at the angle you want the new branch to emerge at.
- Remove all of the leaves at the tip of the sacrificial branch but do not remove the tip bud. This will ensure the branch continues to grow rapidly after it is threaded through the trunk.

- Use some wire to bend the sacrificial branch to the hole you just made. You should have extra wire hanging from the end of the branch to be used later.
- Thread the branch through the hole.
- Wrap the extra wire around the trunk (not through the hole) and continue to wire the branch as it emerges from the thread hole. This is the branch that you will keep so the wire allows you to start giving shape and most importantly helps keep the branch in place and secure while the graft is developing.
- In about a year, or less with nerifolia, you can cut the inserted side of the branch leaving the side you wanted. You will know when it is time, the joint will swell a bit and the branch will be growing profusely.
- Don't use cut sealer. This will only get in the way of the limb grafting to the trunk.





A note from the President:

I have set up a paypal account for AABS. We can now accept any payment from paypal, charge cards (swipe, chip, and NFC) Apple Pay, Google Pay, and other NFC payments. I will have this printed and displayed at the Auction and all Meetings.

FOR SALE OR WANTED:

**FOR SALE - SET OF BONSAI TODAY ISSUES 1 THRU 47
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We would like to sell all issues together as a set.
To make offer please contact 734.433.9773 or email charris@provide.net

If interested we will arrange a convenient time to review them.



Ads in the Newsletter: All members can offer for sale any bonsai and bonsai related materials in the newsletter or at the monthly meeting with no sales fee. AABS Society Members' ads are free to publish in the Newsletter. Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 5th of the month.

Prizes for the Raffle: We are soliciting donations suitable for prizes to be raffled during each general meeting, and, for the Annual Bonsai Show Raffle. If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related, that you do not use anymore and is still in good condition, consider donating it to the Society. Please see Bill Struhar at any meeting, email Bill at wm.struhar@mail.com or call (586) 468-7169.

Club Logo Now Available: we will embroider the club logo on your garment for \$12 (plus modest additional charge for lined garments).

The logo comes in two forms; light green tree on dark green background, or dark green tree on light green background, with a border on both combinations and AABS lettering and Chinese characters with appropriate contrasting color depending upon the garment color.

Bring your garment in a clear plastic bag to a meeting, select your colors, pre-pay Bill Struhar, and your garment will be ready one or two meetings later. (The vendor may require a minimum of five garments per order)

2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President is an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

Fund Raising: William Struhar

Web Administration: Bob Bauer

Nomination Committee:

Show Committee: Ron Milostan and Paul Kulesa

Annual Auction: Paul Kulesa

Membership dues are \$25. Please pay by check, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society or bring your credit card to the meeting and pay! AABS now accepts credit cards for

membership fees and other AABS activities. Please talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting.

Tamara Milostan – Treasurer AABS
4228 Highcrest Dr.
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AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com


The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society: <http://absbonsai.org> and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance: <http://mababonsai.org>

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

Support Local Bonsai Vendors

Hours: Wed., Thurs. & Fri.; 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sat., 1:30pm to 5:00pm
CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Tuesday

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